

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 20, 2021, 8:00-9:00 PM  
Meeting held via Zoom**

Board Members Present: Barbara Gordon, Susan Gruen, Gene Garland

Guests Attending: Claire Rabbit (Town Nurse), Cathy Tallens (LifePath), Sheila Litchfield (EMD)

**8:00 PM Meeting Called to Order (Garland chairing)**

**REVIEW AGENDA**

- No additions to the Agenda

**REVIEW OF 12/16/21 CPHS MEETING**

- Barbara Gordon attended the meeting. The main discussion during the meeting was the distribution of the COVID Home self-test kits.
- The Town of Heath was allocated 90 test kits by the Commonwealth and distributed by FRCOG.
- It will be up to each town to independently decide how to distribute the test kits with priority given to families who are underserved, high-risk individuals, and the elder population.
- Clarification of COVID reporting was also discussed due to recent confusion with case counts. The daily case count reflects cases **reported** into MAVEN that day. The weekly case count is based on the cumulative cases during the specified date range and is based upon the dates the specimens were **collected** from individuals. It is considered to be the most accurate accounting.

**DISCUSSION OF COVID SELF-TEST KIT DISTRIBUTION IN HEATH**

- The distribution priority of COVID self-test kits in the Town of Heath was discussed by the BOH members present at the meeting with input from attendees.
- The guidance for distribution provided by the Commonwealth is to: 1) target families who are underserved. 2) distribute test kits before the holidays. Towns do have leeway in using their own judgement and adding their own criteria.
- FRCOG suggestions given at the recent CPHS meeting for identifying recipients included: food pantry attendees, senior center attendees, students receiving free lunch/breakfast at area schools, meals on wheels recipients, and home health care clients from LifePath.
- The desired local target population was discussed to include: the fragile residents list, Heath students attending Hawlemont Elementary, families who utilize the food pantry, and residents who participate in meals on wheels.
- There was further discussion and concern about holiday visitors of fragile residents and that visitors should be tested prior to entering the home.
- Barbara voiced concern about the limited number of test kits allocated to Heath and that only one test kit per family was available.
- After further discussion, a motion was made by Barbara to distribute the 90 test-kits as follows:
  - One kit per family participating at the food pantry on 12/21/21.
  - One kit per family with a student(s) attending Hawlemont Elementary and not accessed the food pantry. (To be distributed on the final day of school before holiday vacation).
  - Barbara and Susan to contact those on the fragile residents list and deliver the remaining test kits to households that desire a kit. (Goal to complete deliveries before Christmas).

- The motion was seconded by Elissa
- Discussion followed, including solicited input from visitors: Sheila Litchfield,(EDS) Claire Rabbit (Town Nurse), and Cathy Tallens (LifePath rep). Input was supportive of proposed plan.
- VOTE on distribution plan:
  - YEAS: Gene, Barbara, Elissa, Susan
  - NAYS: none
  - Motion carried with majority vote in favor of the distribution plan.

## **COVID-19 COALITION**

- Gene solicited volunteers to head the COVID-19 Coalition for the Town of Heath.
- Barbara proposed that the BOH Chair be the lead on the Coalition with an additional BOH member.
- There were no other volunteers for the second member and Gene asked that everyone think about their availability and willingness to volunteer on the coalition.
- A motion was made that the BOH Chair be the lead on the Coalition with a second BOH member on the coalition TBA.
- The motion was seconded by
  - YEAS: Gene, Barbara, Elissa, Susan
  - NAYS: none
- Motion carried with majority vote in favor of the BOH Chair being the lead on the Coalition with a second BOH member on the coalition.

Barbara moved to adjourn at 9:11 PM; Susan seconded. Ayes: Gene, Susan, Barbara, Elissa. Meeting Adjourned 9:12 PM.